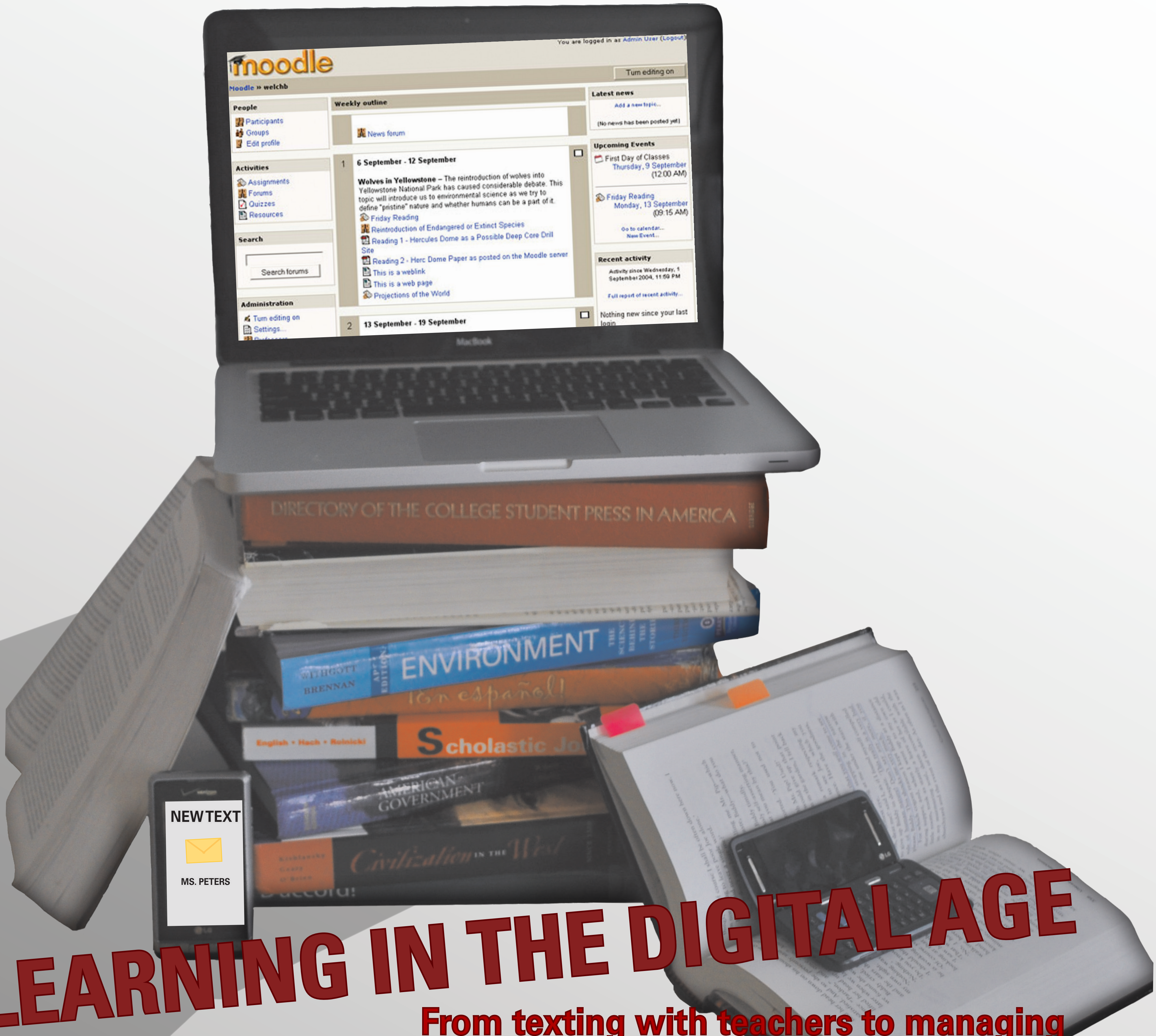
THE SHAKERITE

September 28, 2010 • Volume 81 • Issue 1 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120



You are logged in as Admin User (Logout)

Moodle » welchb

Turn editing on

People
- Participants
- Groups
- Edit profile

Activities
- Assignments
- Forums
- Quizzes
- Resources

Search

Search forums

Administration
- Turn editing on
- Settings...

Weekly outline

News forum

1 **6 September - 12 September**

Wolves in Yellowstone – The reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park has caused considerable debate. This topic will introduce us to environmental science as we try to define "pristine" nature and whether humans can be a part of it.

- Friday Reading
- Reintroduction of Endangered or Extinct Species
- Reading 1 - Hercules Dome as a Possible Deep Core Drill Site
- Reading 2 - Herc Dome Paper as posted on the Moodle server
- This is a weblink
- This is a web page
- Projections of the World

2 **13 September - 19 September**

Latest news

Add a new topic...

(No news has been posted yet)

Upcoming Events

First Day of Classes
Thursday, 9 September
(12:00 AM)

Friday Reading
Monday, 13 September
(09:15 AM)

Go to calendar...
New Event...

Recent activity

Activity since Wednesday, 1 September 2004, 11:59 PM

Full report of recent activity...

Nothing new since your last login

MacBook
DIRECTORY OF THE COLLEGE STUDENT PRESS IN AMERICA
ENVIRONMENT
WRIGHT BRENNAN
¡En español!
English • Hach • Rolnicki
Scholastic Jo
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
Civilization IN THE West
D'accord!
NEW TEXT
MS. PETERS

LEARNING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

From texting with teachers to managing schoolwork on Moodle, education is going high-tech. See Cover Story, pages 8-9.

What's Inside

09.28.10

TECHNOLOGY BLURRING BOUNDARY LINES

It's nothing new that technology is changing the way we communicate. This year, students returned to school and were soon receiving text messages from teachers as well as accessing class information and homework assignments online. As Shaker teachers exploit our tech habits, states and school systems throughout the country are restricting and, in some cases, forbidding texting and social media contact between teachers and students. Read about it in Cover Story, pages 8 and 9.

COVER ART BY GRAHAM FINE, DANA FINLEY AND VICTORIA FYDRYCH

Editors' Note

Manners, not manhandling

Ah, September. Our first month of seniority. The halls are teeming with fresh faces tottering around with oversized backpacks. We were willing to tolerate the jam-packed stairwells and main hallways for the first week of school, but one month later?

DANA FINLEY

VICTORIA FYDRYCH

Yeah, not so much. We don't know if it's just the first-three-weeks-of-school jitters (really?) or that people still genuinely don't know the layout of the lovely building where we spend 35 hours a week, but we're just trying to get from the Shakerite office to the senior lounge. A commute that should take a minute, tops, has turned into a five-minute odyssey that requires dodging the brutal shoving of persons into lockers and other people (hello, I'm right here, and yes, that just left a bruise), weaving around people walking at a glacial pace and of course, the clusters of people standing smack dab in the middle of the hallway verbally dissecting last night's episode of "Jersey Shore."

We're puzzled as to why our fellow students are not walking with a sense of urgency; it's a recipe for tardiness and for us, irritation.

As we get shoulder-checked for the umpteenth time this week, we find ourselves wondering . . . whatever happened to good old manners? Hardly anybody says "excuse me" anymore and if someone does, it's usually said ironically ("Ex-CUSE me!") or drowned out by one of those random, ear-piercing screams (really, those girls could replace the fire alarm) that are as common as the erratically chiming bell system.

As we finish our first month of school, we are making a plea to the students of SHHS: please, let's embrace civility. Let's say "please" and "thank you" and walk up the "Up" stairs and down the "Down" stairs like the big boys and girls that we are. Let's focus on getting from one classroom to another rather than trying to take the route that conveniently passes your BFF's, cousin's and boyfriend's locker.

We understand that the young men at this school are just "tryna get they swag on" by walking at a 5-millimeter-per-hour pace, but we just "tryna get to class." Save the soul-baring conversations with your friends for lunch, study hall or after school. And please, reserve your blood-curdling screams and shouting matches for somewhere far, far away from us.

We're not saying that the high school should be a military academy. But students at this school need a crash course in hallway etiquette.

SEPTEMBER 2010

PAGE 3 | NOTEWORTHY

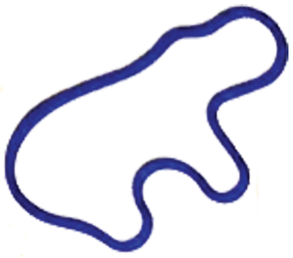
• WITH ALL THE DISMAL DANCE SALES LAST YEAR, ALL BUT HOMECOMING AND PROM HAVE BEEN AXED FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

PAGE 6 | SHAKER SPEAKS

• VICTORIA TELLS PEOPLE TO NOT PITY HAITIANS AND DONATE YOUR MONEY INSTEAD OF YOUR SYMPATHY.

PAGE 10 | THE SPOTLIGHT

•SILLY BANDZ ARE REALLY POPULAR AND MIGHT BE TAKING OVER THE WORLD. WE KIND OF LIKE THEM.



top 10 SILLY BANDZ WE WANT TO OWN

10. Mr. Hutch-shaped Silly Band
9. International Baccalaureate logo-shaped Silly band
8. Chipotle burrito-shaped Silly Band
7. Lady Gaga-shaped Silly Band
6. Blackberry-shaped Silly Band
5. Sarah Palin-shaped Silly Band

Check out The Spotlight for more Silly Bandz fun on page 10

4. Ohio-shaped Silly Band
3. Raider-shaped Silly Band
2. Snooki-shaped Silly Band
1. 2011-shaped Silly Band

Compiled by Dana Finley, Victoria Fydrych and Gabe Gordon

THE SHAKERITE
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NSPA

BACKPACKS ARE A HEAVY ISSUE FOR STUDENTS

Although the enormous amount of backpack weight dragging students down daily may not seem like a big deal, carrying particularly heavy backpacks can cause spinal stress. Studies show that the average student can carry the equivalent of 22 percent of their body weight in their backpacks every day. Backpack Association America, an organization that raises awareness for the dangers of heavy backpacks. The organization helps to spread knowledge of backpack safety through posters, hand outs, demonstrations and an eight-minute informational video.

SARAH-JANE LORENZO

> "People got used to doing whatever they wanted at the dances."
> Michaela Matthews
> Junior

HALF AS MANY CHANCES TO GRIND

• All but 2 socials have been nixed this year after ticket sales slumped in 2009-10

BY SAM WEISNER
STAFF REPORTER

No school dances other than homecoming and prom are listed on this year's school calendar.

According to sophomore class president Parker Smith, Student Council did not pull the plug on seasonal dances.

"Low ticket sales equals no dances," he said.

Only 100 tickets were sold for last year's winter social, and only 60 tickets were sold for the spring fling.

"We kept homecoming and prom because they were largely attended," Principal Michael Griffith said.

The decline in sales coincided with new restrictions placed on students' dance styles, including a ban on suggestive dancing such as grinding. Approximately 15 students were kicked out of the back-to-school dance last year because the administration thought they were dancing inappropriately. Many students complained that the new dance rules had not been clearly articulated, leading Principal Michael Griffith to make a blunt P.A. announcement about acceptable behavior before the homecoming dance.

Junior Michaela Matthews, one of the students banished from the back-to-school dance last year, believes that low attendance resulted when restrictions placed on dancing conflicted with students' habits.

"People got used to doing whatever they wanted at the dances," Matthews said.

According to Smith, Student Council is looking at alternatives for dances. One idea was a block party proposed in place of the back-to-school dance. Griffith vetoed the block party idea because it posed too many problems.

"It was a mutual agreement that the block party wouldn't happen, so I wasn't really upset," Smith said. According to Smith, it's hard for council to come up with ideas and get approval, and although Student Council is looking at different ways to raise money, they can't give an answer on what they are going to do yet.

Freshman Micah Sattin is also disappointed that there are not additional dances. As a new student to Shaker, Sattin thought that dances would give him a chance to meet new people. Sattin attended Agnon where there is only one dance listed on the 2010-11 calendar.

Said Sattin, "I love dances. They're fun. There should be more."

THE SHAKERITE

HOEDOWN SHOWDOWN

Students, administration butt heads at the Back to School Dance, page 6

Dana Finley• The Shakerite

STUDENTS DANCE AT last year's back-to-school dance, the "Raider Rodeo." Administrators removed students whose dance styles contradicted standards communicated beforehand.

CHANGES ARE MADE IN THE CAFETERIA AS AVI TAKES CHARGE

BY SARAH-JANE LORENZO
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

The district's decision to give complete charge of cafeteria operations, including employment of cafeteria workers, to AVI Food Systems was made in early 2010, with goals to provide nutritious and appealing food while increasing sales.

Although all 26 of the cafeteria workers employed by the school were laid off of their jobs last year, all were given a chance to re-apply for a job with AVI. Most were hired. "Their wages and benefits are comparable to what they were receiving as district employees," district Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell stated in an e-mail message. "This arrangement was approved by the leadership of Local 200, the union that represents custodians, grounds and maintenance staff, bus drivers and, in the past, food service staff."

After revenues from food purchases during the 2009-2010 were $350,000 short of reaching the $1.9 million food service budget, the district was forced to use money from its general fund to cover the gap. "That is money that could have been used for other purposes," Caldwell stated. AVI's plan is expected to make the subsidy from the district zero this school year.

Under the current arrangement AVI will receiving no payment from the school district; however, the district had to purchase $160,000 of steam tables and other equipment in order to serve hot lunches at the five lower schools. None of these schools have kitchens, so the food served will be transferred from Woodbury and the middle school.

"So far, the new offerings are being very well received by students and parents, particularly at the K-4 schools," stated Caldwell.

CROWDED CLASSES

•Larger class sizes resulting from budget cuts greeted students and teachers this year, and some freshman science classes are feeling the effects.

"Last year most of my classes were small," freshman Tatiana Ali said. "There is no individual attention this year."

Ali is in Megan Alexander's second period physical science class, which is so large that administrators added another teacher to help Alexander handle it. According to the National Science Teachers Association, "Classes containing more than 24 students engaged in science activities cannot safely be supervised by one teacher."

Alexander described her classroom as "crowded and tough to get around." A class of 30 in a room with six lab tables forces students to form lab groups of five.

Science teacher Dan Watkins said that due to class sizes he is not able to answer questions or call on students as efficiently he'd like.

James Schmidt, who teaches physics, said, "[There are] less people to teach, more people to be taught."

STATS PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO ACHIVEMENT GAP

•An average 60-point difference between European-American and African-American students has been reported in standardized math testing at the ninth grade level at the high school, according to the accountability report and district factbook for the 2009-2010 school year presented at the Board of Education meeting Sept. 14. The factbook describes district statistics such as racial composition, average income, and educational performance.

According to the report, the achievement gap between European-Americans and African-Americans has continued to grow and has been identified as starting at the kindergarten level. Data has also shown that girls outperformed boys on the tenth-grade PLAN test.

The report also revealed that the district has seen a significant decline in indentified handicapped students, especially in specific learning disabilities, in the last year.

Compiled by Tiara Freeman and Dana Finley

> "Teachers will work with the students more . . . challenge them to improve."
>
> Michael Griffith
> principal

PRINCIPAL ADVOCATES FOR THE END OF LOW GRADES

• As some school districts remove D's and F's from their grading scales, Griffith hopes teachers do the same

BY ERIN CULLEN
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Want to reduce the number of D's and F's students earn?

Stop giving them.

This year Principal Michael Griffith hopes fewer students will earn D's and F's simply because teachers refuse to accept them. The idea of "removing" these grades is not just a Shaker notion. According to the New York Times, Mount Olive High School in New Jersey has already done so.

Griffith is urging students not to earn grades lower than a C. He said that a D or an F is not acceptable for a college applicant. He believes if teachers adopted this philosophy, they would change their approach.

"I think this will mean that teachers will work the students more . . . challenge them to improve," said Griffith, who hopes teachers will not accept anything less than satisfactory performance. If students receive a failing grade, Griffith hopes they can retake the test or redo the homework assignment.

TUCKER

CURTIS

At Mount Olive High School, a student can now earn an A, B,C or an incomplete.

According to the Times article, "When students receive a failing grade on a test, a paper or a homework assignment in the future, they will have three days to repeat the work for a C, and their parents will be notified by phone or e-mail."

Mount Olive is believed to be the first district in New Jersey to try this approach.

Mount Olive Superintendant Larrie Reynolds told the Times, "D's are simply not useful in society."

Like Reynolds, Griffith wants to motivate students to work harder and raise the bar for success.

Shaker freshman Morgan Curtis recognizes an opportunity in a no-D, no-F world.

"It gives a second chance to get the grades that you want to get," Curtis said.

The notion of second chances raises the question of whether students would exploit such an approach. For example, if a student wanted more time to study for a test, he or she might be tempted to underperform on that test with the expectation of a retake.

"I probably would, but I can't speak for everyone, because if you were lazy on the first test, they wouldn't study for the second one," freshman Daja Tucker said.

Griffith emphasized that D and F grades do not suggest a student has developed a foundation for success in college. But would colleges know applicants' grades are based on a redo approach?

Guidance counselor Elizabeth Vokes said they would. "On the high school's transcripts, they must report their grading scales to colleges. Many times different parts of the country have different grading scales.

"They [colleges] also know a high school's reputation and base acceptance on the rigor of the courses that the students have taken" she said.

The Times article has prompted discussion in the blogosphere.

A North Carolina teacher posted a comment on a blog, stating "I am having a very difficult time understanding why teachers boost students' grades in order to pass them along."

In the same blog an AP teacher stated, "Fulton County Schools practices this as well -- for over 10+ years. Nothing new. The only problem I encounter with it as a teacher is that if a student earns a 69 in my class, I am more inclined to raise their grade to a 70 so they are never 'one point away' from passing."

In an e-mail interview, Alison Toller, press officer for Georgia's Fulton County Schools, stated that the policy was adopted before she began working there.

She wrote, "I also know that we've had some leadership changes in curriculum and instruction, so the individuals who were around when the 'D' was eliminated are no longer on staff."

Shaker teachers interviewed commended Griffith's idea but questioned its practicality. One teacher said, "I don't think the students who will be getting D's and F's will be the ones who will make up the assignment."

At Shaker, it's apparent that not many teachers have taken up the no-D, no-F cause. Most students haven't heard of the idea.

"When it becomes a rule, I will try harder," Curtis said.

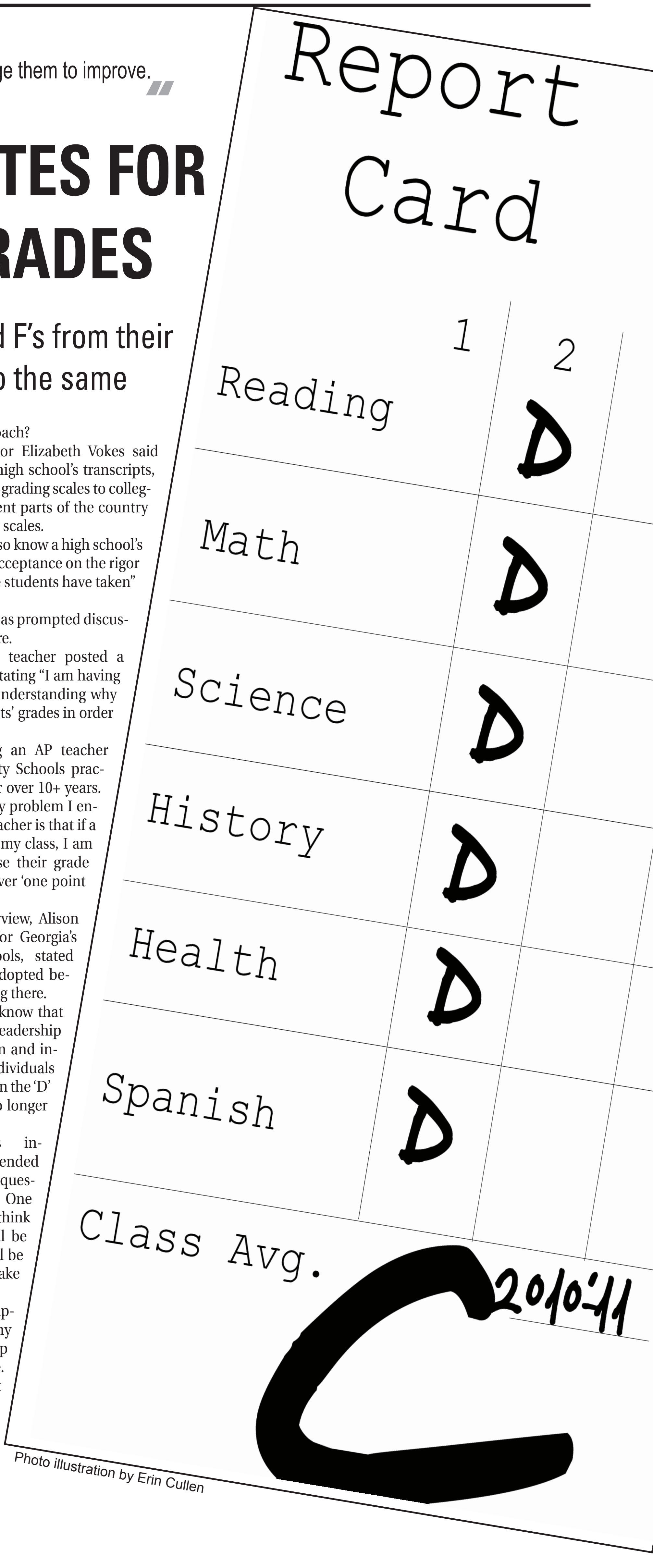


Photo illustration by Erin Cullen

THUMBS DOWN FOR

THUMB SUCKING

• Of the countless ways that teenagers cope with stress, thumb sucking was not one that you would often see.

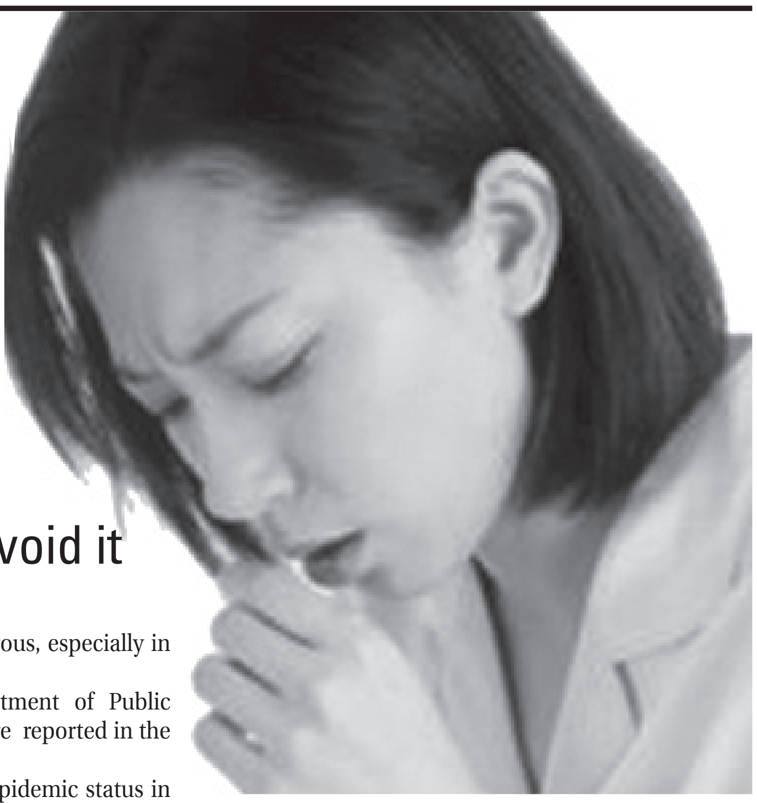
However, some students at the high school have added this habit to the long list of others that they resort to each day as a form of relief.

Thumb sucking is a method of self comfort; used commonly by infants, toddlers and young children, many children begin to suck their thumbs while in the womb. Although this habit doesn't usually last long, some people continue to suck their thumbs through their elementary and high school years.

"It is probably most harmful socially," said Chris Cullen, social worker at the high school. The teasing thumb suckers endure, she said, might lead to the student feeling even more stressed and make the thumb sucking worse. Aside from having negative social and psychological effects, over time thumb sucking may move teeth and cause the thumb sucker to develop an overbite, underbite or both, which may result in a need for orthodontic treatment. Dental problems aren't the only physical downside of thumb sucking; thumb suckers may develop calluses and infections on their thumb nails as well as contract pin worms, small parasites which live in the intestines.

Compiled by Sarah-Jane Lorenzo

THE 100-DAY COUGH MAKES ANOTHER APPEARANCE



• Pertussis, whooping cough . . . no matter what you call it, you need a(nother) shot to avoid it

BY ERIN CULLEN AND SARAH-JANE LORENZO
NOTEWORTHY EDITORS

A national outbreak of pertussis, or whooping cough, has caught the attention of many health officials.

School nurse Paula Damm said pertussis is highly contagious respiratory tract infection. Everyone should be immunized with the vaccine as a young child, she said.

Pertussis develops in three stages. By the third stage, people who have pertussis experience rapid coughing fits that often leave them short of breath.

Some make a "whoop" sound when trying to breathe. The persistent condition is also called the 100-day cough. Because it resembles the common cold in early stages, pertussis often not diagnosed until after it has become contagious.

The reason for a surge in the outbreaks is that some infant vaccinations become less effective as people age, Damm said.

Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) is a booster shot that offers continued protection from those diseases for adolescents and adults ages 10 to 64.

"All 7th graders are now required to have the Tdap booster," Damm said.

Pertussis can be extremely dangerous, especially in infants under the age of 1.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, 27 infant pertussis deaths were reported in the United States in 2004.

Currently, pertussis has reached epidemic status in California.

According to the IDPH, there are also less serious complications, which include ear infections and dehydration.

Although uncommon, complications that can affect the brain, such as convulsions and inflammation, may occur, especially in infants.

These can have long-term effects or even cause death.

In a recent Ohio Department of Public Health article the potential consequences for patients with pertussis who also have other underlying medical conditions can be as severe as chronic lung disease, respiratory insufficiency and even death.

SYMPTOMS OF FIRST STAGE PERTUSSIS

Runny nose
Sore throat
Sneezing
Low-grade fever
Mild, occasional cough

Symptoms of first stage pertussis are similar to those of the common cold.

Compiled by Erin Cullen and Sarah-Jane Lorenzo

According to Web Md, to decrease the risk of pertussis, children under the age of 7 should be vaccinated with the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine.

Sandi Hurley, Shaker Heights Health Department public records manager and the nursing director for Shaker, stated pertussis cases have been on the rise for some time.

"According to national surveillance, in the last 10 years there has been an increase in pertussis," Hurley said.

A contributing factor may be some parents' reluctance to vaccinate their children because they are afraid vaccines increase the risk of autism.

"There is no evidence that links vaccines to autism," said Hurley, who has been giving the Tdap vaccine to Shaker residents recently.

Purell
INSTANT HAND SANITIZER

PURELL COMES UP EMPTY ON BENEFITS, SOME SAY

Many Purell dispensers installed throughout the building in 2009 remain unfilled this year.

School nurse Paula Damm said that while nothing should replace soap and water, hand sanitizers are the best backup. Bacteria spread by touch. "It's like flour," said Damm, who explained that the Purell dispensers are not checked daily and that people should alert custodians for refills. Chief Custodian Tim Bates confirmed Damm's suggestion.

Purell was recommended to the school by health organizations such as the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, but no hand sanitizer is effective in preventing the H1N1 virus. Good hand washing and flu vaccinations are the most effective approach to avoiding the flu.

Empty dispensers are not a problem for biology teacher John Moore. "It's a devious plot," Moore said. Purell is killing off 99.9 percent of bacteria, but that other .1 percent becomes stronger, Moore said.

Purell is low on the list of custodian priorities said Moore, who urged everyone to wash their hands and wash them well.

Compiled by Sarah Shaw

Staph infections hit high school

• MRSA cases affect student athletes

BY ALLI HARRIS
STAFF REPORTER

Staph has come to Shaker.

Formally known as MRSA, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infections once found mostly in hospitals are increasingly occurring in athletic environments from the NFL to middle school. The infection, which is highly contagious and antibiotic resistant, has surfaced occasionally at the high school, according to nurse Paula Damm, although she had not been informed that a field hockey athlete contracted staph this season.

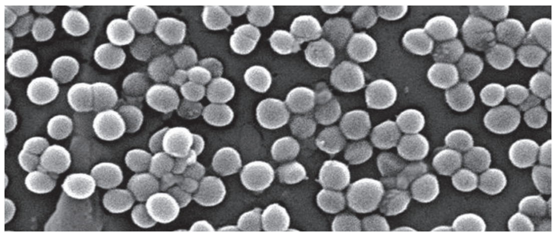
"Is there a case here?" she asked.

According to Athletic Director Don Readance, the risk in this case is small.

"The doctor said it was just a superficial infection," Readance said.

Former Cleveland Browns player LeCharles Bentley sued the team in July 2010 for a career-ending staph infection supposedly contracted from the team's facilities. High school students in Mississippi, New Hampshire and Virginia died from the bacteria several years ago, including Ashton Bonds, a 17-year- old football player from Staunton River High School in Moneta, Va.

"People wouldn't think it could be contagious," said Shaker Heights Health Director Sandi Hurley. But, staph spreads two ways. One way is by direct contact, by touching someone who has it. It can also spread indirectly, or by contact with an article, such as athletic equipment, that carries the bacteria.



netwellness.org

IN IDEAL CONDITIONS, staph bacteria divides and multiplies every 20 minutes; they thrive in humid environments.

"They took precautions to make sure that they bleached the pads," Readance said.

If there was a breakout that involved many cases, Hurley said, it would prompt an investigation to find the source. Next the health department would identify who may come in contact with it and see if those people have the symptoms. Finally, everyone would have to be educated about proper hygiene.

The best way to deal with staph is never to get it.

"Wash your hands, and wash them well, not just running water over them. And use Purell if washing your hands is not an option," Hurley said.

Staph infection can look like a rash; it may be red, swollen and painful. Staph causes a high fever, chills and low blood pressure.

CRAISGLIST 'PERSONAL' SECTION MUCH TOO PERSONAL

Apparently Omegle and Chatroulette just weren't creepy enough for some people online. Some Craigslist users began posting sex ads on craiglist.com to find partners through the Internet. Aside from Craigslist's personal sections, where there are options for women and men to find partners, the sex ads were found in the services section. Phil Markoff, a Boston University medical student, was arrested this summer for allegedly murdering a woman he met on Craigslist who advertised in this erotic section. After it was asked to remove the ads by 17 attorneys, separate from the Markoff case, Craigslist replaced the adult section title with the word "censored." Although this was a temporary fix for the website's problems at the time, most still view the personal section as online prostitution.

ILANA KRAMER

Haiti needs support, not sympathy

'Hope for Haiti." It's a phrase I saw plastered across T-shirts, baseball caps, and ID tags.

The two dozen or so volunteers on my flight to Port-au-Prince, Haiti sported similar slogans, all bearing some arrangement of the words heart, hope, faith and Haiti.

When I asked them what they would be doing in Haiti, they offered no specific tasks or projects, only that they were going to "help." When I found out they would be staying in Haiti's most expensive hotel, Cap Lamandou, I was disturbed by the commercial nature of their alleged mission trip. When I later visited the hotel, I saw the group lounging on chairs, and they didn't appear to be "helping" anyone.

VICTORIA FYDRYCH

It was only after my first few days in the developing country that I realized just how patronizing those slogans were. While working in a free medical clinic, I met countless individuals who needed neither our hope nor our faith. They were kind, generous and proud people; the only difference between us was our socioeconomic statuses.

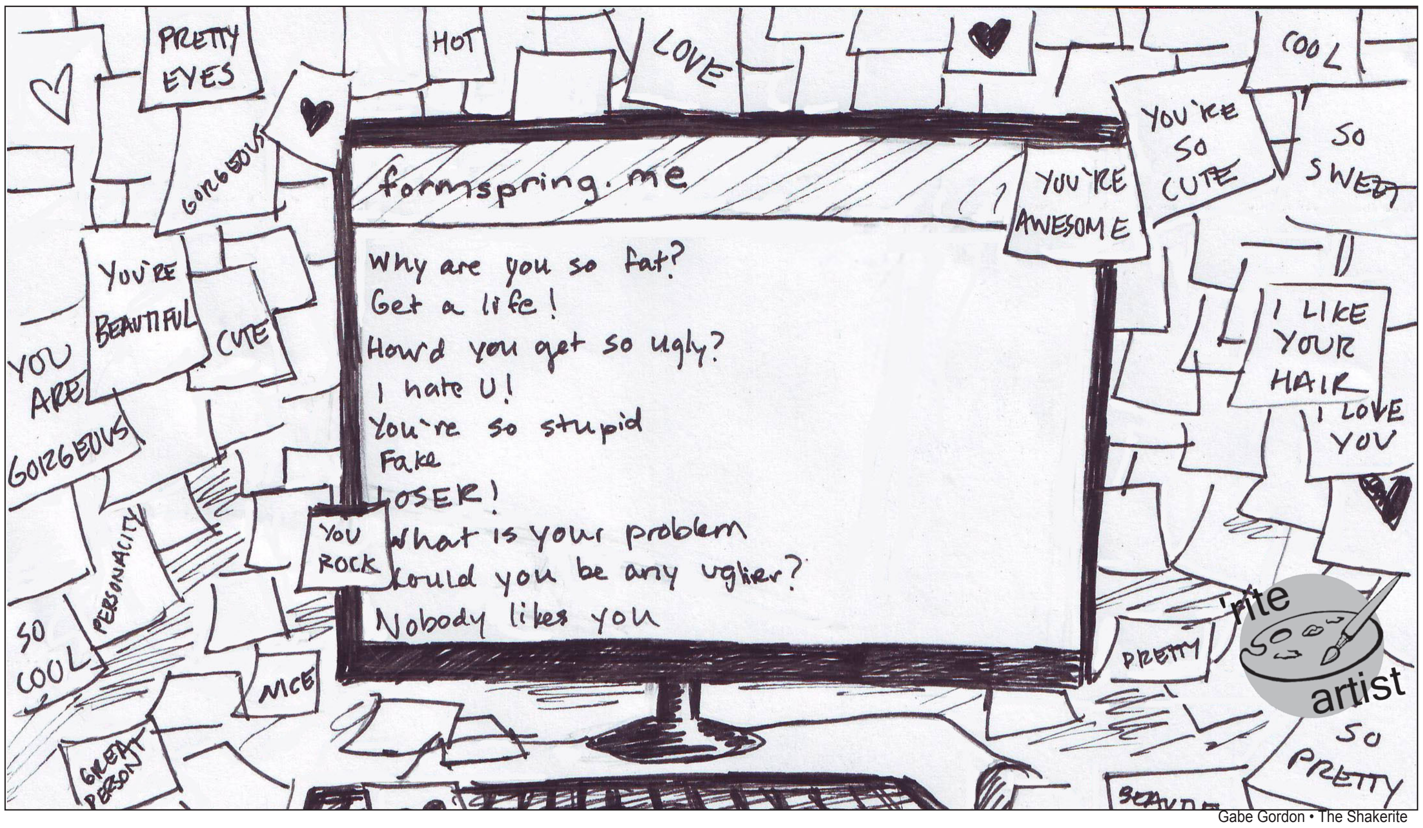
I also encountered an inspiring group of kids at the Art Creation Foundation for Children, an organization focused on keeping youth out of the streets. The children, whose ages range from 1 to 18, work on art projects, some of which are sold to support the orphanage/refuge.

They have suffered incomprehensibly, losing their homes and families, yet their spirit is unlike any I've ever encountered. Anyone who truly experiences the Haitian people's strength and character would realize they do not require our hope.

Although there are many legitimate aid organizations, some incorrectly assume the Haitian people are despondent and in need of saving. This assumption creates an unnecessary rift between the people and the relief workers. The Haitian people I spoke to responded poorly to condescension accompanying the aid.

The Haitian people don't need our hope. What they need is our resources. Instead of pitying the thousands of people affected by the Jan. 12 earthquake, donate to organizations where you can see your money at work, such as Doctors Without Borders or the Red Cross. It's important to identify nongovernmental organizations, or non-profit organizations, that use money effectively and for the greatest benefit of the people. Shy away from giving money to the Haitian government, which the people see as corrupt.

So the next time you see a moving photograph or read a heartbreaking story, don't pity. Donate.



Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

GIVE CONFIDENCE, NOT CRUELTY

• Operation Beautiful works to rebuild self-images Formspring destroys

As Operation Beautiful works to raise self-image, online forces are working to tear people's confidence down. Operation Beautiful is an organization that began as a blog promoting a healthy lifestyle. Caitlin Boyle, who began the project in Charlotte, North Carolina, leaves Post-it-notes bearing inspiring messages in public places.

As a stranger motivates us to think highly of ourselves, people who we like to think of as our friends are doing the opposite.

When Facebook's Honesty Box application was at its "height," most people used it to anonymously post degrading comments. Although harmful, the messages people left in your Honesty Box were for your eyes only. While this meant that no one else could see demeaning comments about your "sickening" appearance, and your "terrible" personality, it also meant that any kind comments couldn't be shared.

'rite idea

Formspring fixed that problem.

Formspring.Me is a social networking website that allows people to ask others anonymous questions. The questions, answers and any comments can be posted to a profile similar to a Facebook wall at the Formspring user's discretion. The user can then choose to post the link to his or her Facebook profile.

And once on Facebook, nothing is private (unless you solve the mystery that is Facebook privacy settings). Whether they show up on a news feed, or your friends just decide to "creep" on you, the Formspring comments manage to get around. And, sadly, students who exclaim, "I'll tell you anything," on their Formspring profile don't seem to realize they are just asking for trouble.

Students are finally learning to worry that colleges and employers will see what is posted on Facebook. They have yet to apply that concern to what amounts to the newest form of cyber bullying. And, if you choose to not make your Formspring comment anonymously, not only can everyone see the awful things you wrote, they can also see that you wrote them.

Are teenagers so desperate to boost their own self-esteem that calling people ugly and stupid (online, where everyone can see it) is the best way to feel better about themselves?

Operation Beautiful is a welcome departure from the toxic online environment. On the whole, teenagers seem to take to heart any tiny criticism, even when otherwise overwhelmed with praise. Operation Beautiful works to keep the positive coming. So should we all.

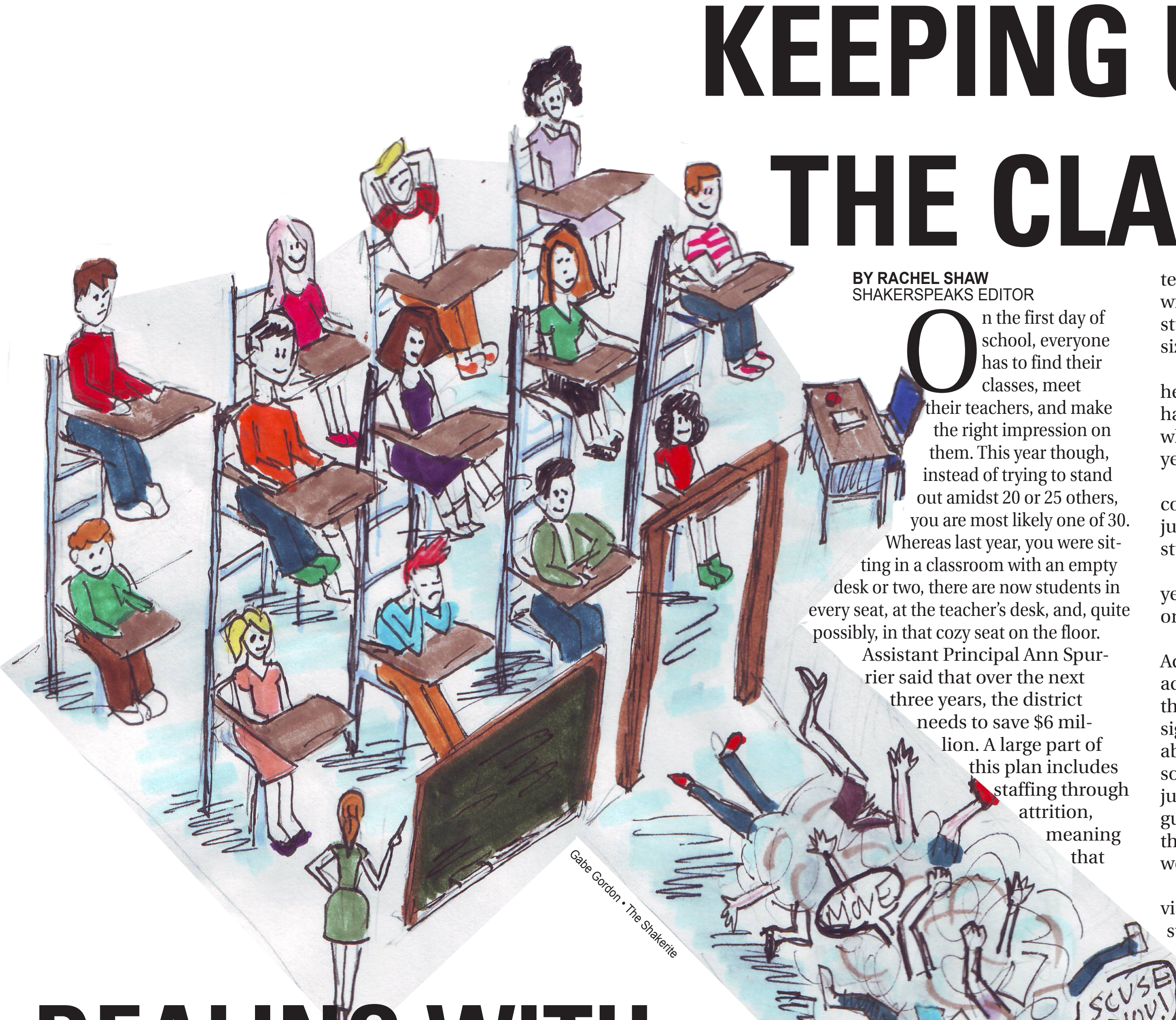
DANA FINLEY

IF YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO DRIVE, YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO PARK CORRECTLY

ten second tick off

For some reason, parking around the Oval this year has become even more of a hot mess than usual—which no one thought was even possible. Maybe it is because there's an influx of new drivers, but the gaps between parked cars on the oval has increased dramatically. Either kids have a warped perception of just how large their cars are (you don't drive a Hummer, so stop leaving enough space for two of them in front of your vehicle so you can pull out at the end of the day) or they plain just don't care about their consumption of precious square feet of asphalt. Getting a spot in the morning is hard enough. You learned to drive; stop being obnoxious and learn to park.

KEEPING UP WITH THE CLASS SIZE



Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

BY RACHEL SHAW
SHAKERSPEAKS EDITOR

On the first day of school, everyone has to find their classes, meet their teachers, and make the right impression on them. This year though, instead of trying to stand out amidst 20 or 25 others, you are most likely one of 30. Whereas last year, you were sitting in a classroom with an empty desk or two, there are now students in every seat, at the teacher's desk, and, quite possibly, in that cozy seat on the floor.

Assistant Principal Ann Spurrier said that over the next three years, the district needs to save $6 million. A large part of this plan includes staffing through attrition, meaning that teachers who leave, retire, or switch to part time will not be replaced. According to Spurrier, the student body is staying about the same size. Class sizes will continue to grow.

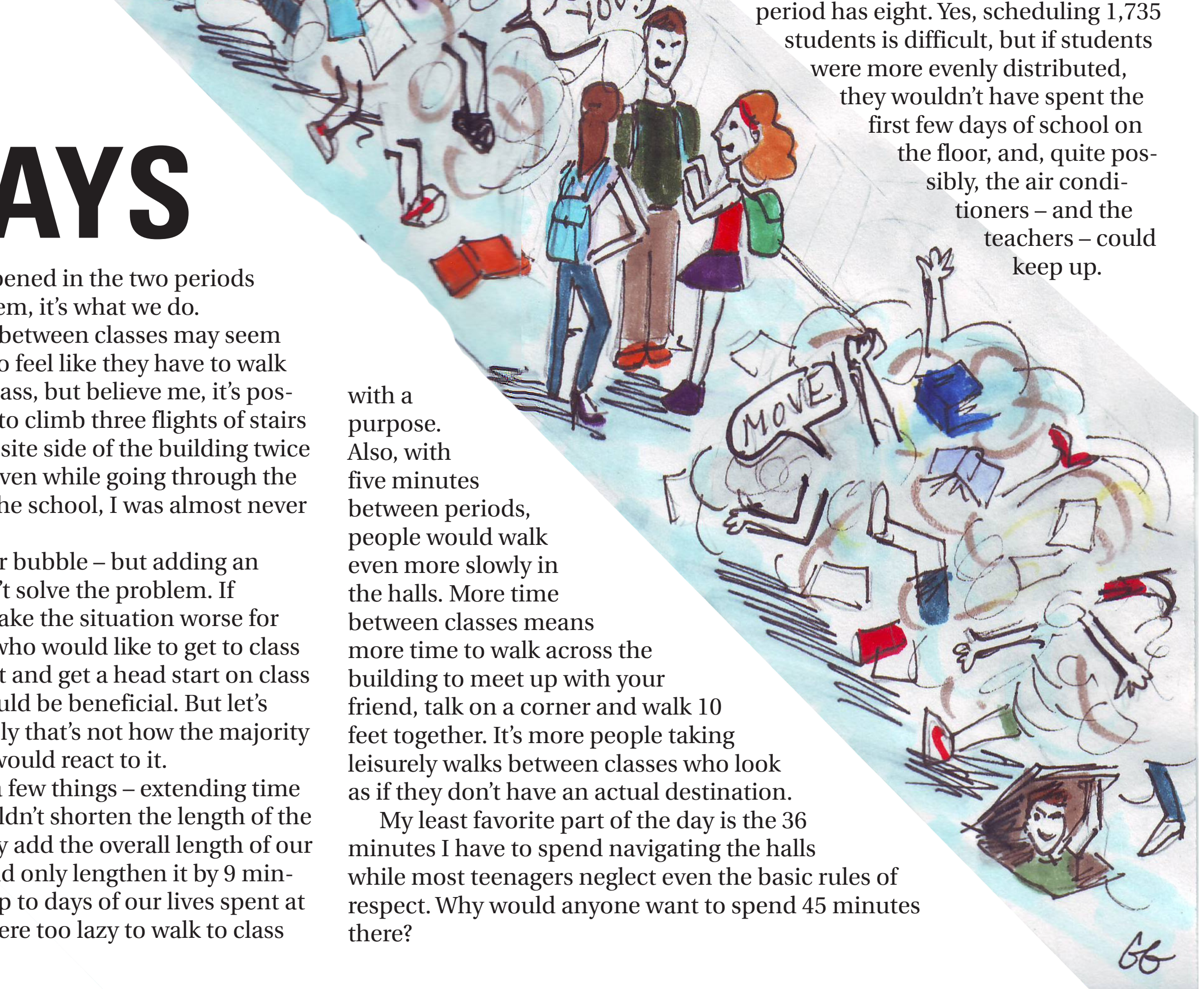
English teacher Elizabeth Colquitt described her classes to be "full, but not exploding." She has 28 students in the largest of her four classes, which she notes is significantly more than in past years.

Colquitt said that this has caused some discomfort, most notably in that "the air conditioner just isn't up to the task of all those bodies." As a student, that's a familiar story.

Perhaps the air conditioning units are a few years old and losing steam. To take a guess, new ones aren't in the budget.

Colquitt, who teaches 10 Honors and 11 Advanced English, has 102 students. She had to adjust her curriculum in order to accommodate the larger classes, cutting back on writing assignments this year, and being especially careful about staggering due dates to prevent an influx of sophomore essays at the same time as an influx of junior essays. After all, it's more than 100 percent guaranteed that students will lose patience when their six gazillion point essay isn't returned in a week.

By contract, each teacher teaches or supervises five periods a day, with a maximum 125 students (110 students for English teachers) each day. Although this averages to 25 students per period, it's not unusual for second period to have 30 students, while third period has eight. Yes, scheduling 1,735 students is difficult, but if students were more evenly distributed, they wouldn't have spent the first few days of school on the floor, and, quite possibly, the air conditioners – and the teachers – could keep up.



DEALING WITH HECTIC HALLWAYS

• A minute won't make a difference – walking with a purpose will

ILANA KRAMER

Excuse me, pardon me, can I please – can you just move?

I generally don't think that teenagers are rude, but when it comes to hallway etiquette, I don't have anything nice to say about the way students act. On page two, Victoria Fydrych and Dana Finley ranted about some students' inability to successfully walk down a hall. And while most students and faculty suggest that a minute longer between periods would solve the problem, I disagree.

Teenagers like to socialize; it's a fact. Whether that's on the phone late at night, hanging out after school or stopping in the middle of the hallway to update your friends on what happened in the two periods since you last saw them, it's what we do.

The four minutes between classes may seem small to students who feel like they have to walk a mile to their next class, but believe me, it's possible. Last year I had to climb three flights of stairs and walk to the opposite side of the building twice during my day, and even while going through the densest hallways of the school, I was almost never late to class.

Sorry to burst your bubble – but adding an extra minute wouldn't solve the problem. If anything, it would make the situation worse for everyone. For those who would like to get to class early, find a good seat and get a head start on class work, the minute would be beneficial. But let's admit it: unfortunately that's not how the majority of the student body would react to it.

Let's think about a few things – extending time between classes wouldn't shorten the length of the periods; it would only add the overall length of our day. Although it would only lengthen it by 9 minutes, the time adds up to days of our lives spent at school because we were too lazy to walk to class with a purpose. Also, with five minutes between periods, people would walk even more slowly in the halls. More time between classes means more time to walk across the building to meet up with your friend, talk on a corner and walk 10 feet together. It's more people taking leisurely walks between classes who look as if they don't have an actual destination.

My least favorite part of the day is the 36 minutes I have to spend navigating the halls while most teenagers neglect even the basic rules of respect. Why would anyone want to spend 45 minutes there?

DIGITAL CLASSROOM:

More and more teachers exploit their newfound love for technology

MOODLE SENDS THE CLASSROOM HOME

BY ALYSSE EBERHARD
COVER STORY EDITOR

It was inevitable, really.

Realizing that students spend their lives on Facebook, teachers have begun to use Moodle. Although it sounds like a designer dog, Moodle stands for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, which is a fancy way of saying software used to create online classes.

In the words of French teacher Suzanne Gyurgyik, "It's Facebook for a learning environment."

Moodle has become a simpler way for teachers to post homework assignments, resources and due dates. While this is a capability of ProgressBook, the online grade book that most teachers use, more are starting to explore Moodle. Students, mostly those in language classes, are expected to use Moodle to post oral assignments such as oral final exams or recordings of homework assignments. Recently, Moodle has become a way for students to access lessons and homework instead receiving them in class.

The increased emphasis on technology is not popular among all students.

"I don't think everything should be centered around Moodle; it's like taking a computer course instead of taking a French class," said junior Zoe Steenbergh. She noted that relying on Moodle to complete and submit homework relieves students of responsibility; if Moodle does not work, there is not much students can do about it. If a student chooses not to do traditional homework, that is their decision.

"If I don't have my workbook, it's on me, it's my fault," Steenbergh said.

Online learning also poses challenges for students whose study habits rely on earlier technologies.

"For me, I need to write everything down, that's how I learn. The internet can be a hassle, especially for accents and misspellings," junior French student Alex Schachtel said.

Gyurgyik views Moodle as a way to organize assignments and show videos, save paper and keep kids interested in learning. "We're trying to meet you where you're at; students spend lots of time on Facebook anyway," Gyurgyik said.

Gyurgyik also mentioned the rising popularity of Vista, a website that students use nearly every day to complete homework assignments in advanced French classes. These assignments, often multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank exercises, are automatically graded by Vista, reducing the amount of homework graded by hand.

Issues with Moodle, such as access or viewing problems, can arise while a student is at home. Sometimes problems can be solved with an email to a teacher, but other times students are left stranded with no way to complete the online work. Gyurgyik holds conferences in the computer lab for students who cannot access Moodle at home.

"If a teacher is going to use Moodle, they should make themselves available for questions. I would expect students to come to me saying they can't get on Moodle if I assigned homework on Moodle," science teacher James Schmidt said.

Biology teacher John Moore also uses Moodle. He posts Powerpoint slides and other information to reinforce points in the classroom and to help review for tests. Moore expects students who were absent to access Moodle to get missed assignments and information.

According to Moore, students' first reactions to his Moodle use have been clear.

"They hate it," he said. However, Moore explained, as students learn how he uses Moodle, they realize that it is a useful resource and not just another activity.

Moodle is confusing enough to have spawned Facebook pages titled "I Hate Moodle" and "Moodle Sucks." The majority of the complaints are from students around the country who don't know how to use Moodle or become frustrated when the technology fails. Moodle often malfunctions, preventing students from accessing their accounts, successfully viewing hyperlinks, or posting their own homework assignments.

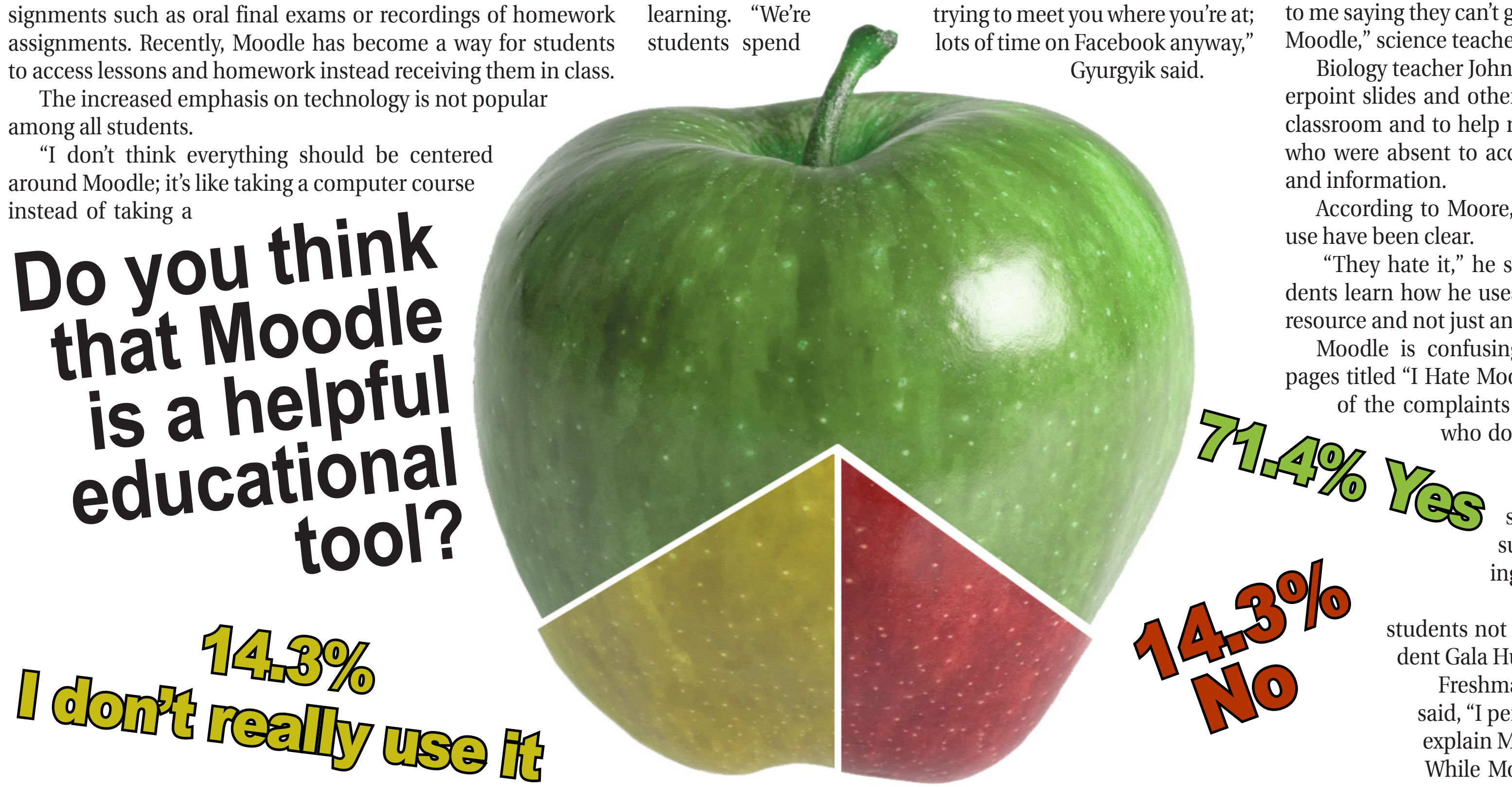
"It is helpful yet confusing, thus making students not want to use it," sophomore French student Gala Hughley said.

Freshman French student Jonathan Holloway said, "I personally get lost when my teachers try to explain Moodle."

While Moodle may be useful, the move towards technology comes at a cost. Said Schmidt, "You still can't undervalue the interaction between a teacher and his or her class."

Latrice Burks and Kathleen Kalafatis contributed reporting.

Do you think that Moodle is a helpful educational tool?



*Non-scientific straw polls conducted using a sample of 14 students from two 11 Advanced English classes

TEACHERS FIND FRIEND IN TEXTING

• With convenience in mind and phones at hand, teachers turn to texting students

BY ALYSSE EBERHARD
COVER STORY EDITOR

A dead silent classroom. Your phone buzzes and everyone stares. "It's just my teacher," is your excuse.

Texting has been an issue during school hours for students for years. The problem has now entered a new realm as a trend of texting between Shaker Heights High School teachers and students has emerged. Teachers texting students began last year and has increased in both popularity and frequency among teachers this school year.

According to Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell, the Shaker school district has not created a policy concerning texting between students and school personnel. She referred to the Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy, which does not mention anything about texting.

While students are not required to give teachers their cell phone numbers, teachers such as Travis Cox, Amanda Rabatin and Jody Podl collected students' numbers at the beginning of the school year and now text them about homework assignments and due dates.

Podl said that the texts are helping her students. Anytime they have a question, they can send her a text and get an answer relatively quickly.

Senior Baleigh Breaux was Podl's student last year. "If I couldn't stay after school, I relied on texting her for help. Plus, it was more one-on-one, allowing for more detailed critiques and advice on essays," Breaux said.

Cox, who sends texts to students as reminders about assignments, said that technology is a helpful aid. "I don't find it necessary, but it is another way that I can communicate with my students that they already use frequently. Why fight technology? I may as well use it to better communicate with my students to ensure what they need to do in order to be successful in my class," Cox said.

Some students, however, consider teachers texting their students to be crossing the line. Senior Rosa Katz's teachers do not text their students, but she said she would not welcome text messages from faculty. "My phone is private, and I would not want my teachers to text me. I would not feel comfortable giving teachers my phone number even if there was a school policy."

Katz is not alone in feeling uncomfortable about teachers sending text messages to students. Across the country, school districts and even state legislatures are taking action to curb teacher use of technology and social media to contact students.

In December 2009, a Louisiana state law was created that requires teachers to document any contact they have with students outside of school. Any contact the teacher had with the student, even if it was initiated by the student, must be documented on an electronic form that states the reason for contact.

The Madison Local Schools Board of Education in Oxford, Ohio approved a policy banning text messaging between students and school personnel in April 2009 because of an incident involving former coach and teacher, Jamie Wagner. He was sentenced to three years in prison for sending inappropriate messages to a female student-athlete.

A former Pinellas County, FL middle school teacher was sentenced to five years' probation for sending sexual texts to an eighth-grade student last November.

Teachers have also heightened friendships with students through social networking. Teacher-student friendships on Facebook are becoming more common, but the question of propriety remains. Facebook has become a way for teachers to make scholastic groups to keep students informed. For example, International Baccalaureate students can friend teacher and IB coordinator Tim Mitchell on Facebook in order to stay informed about IB events and information.

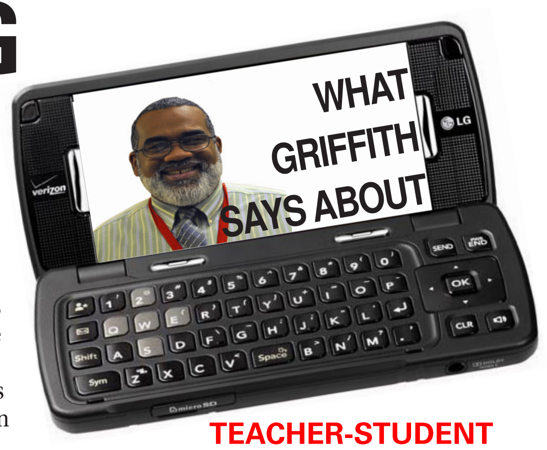
But what about teachers friending students, or vice versa? Even though there is a Facebook page for the Shaker Heights marching band, band directors Joe Kulikowski and Adrian Pocaro are friends with a number of their students on Facebook. Shaker Heights High School French teacher Suzanne Gyurgyik is friends with multiple students on Facebook, even though she has created a page for her French classes. Shaker Middle School French teacher Anna Hruby is friends with several students on Facebook as well. This raises the question as to whether or not educational purposes are priority.

The New Jersey School Boards Association created a policy requiring all teachers sign a policy prohibiting them from listing students as friends on social networking sites, texting students individually, and giving out numbers without district permission. Text messages must be sent to an entire class, group or organization and copied to the supervisor.

While no inappropriate incidents have occurred between Shaker Heights High School teachers and students, the principle of the matter lingers. Technology is becoming an increasing influence in everyday lives of both students and teachers, but whether it is necessary for teachers to reach out to students in potentially risky ways poses differing viewpoints. On one hand, as long as these forms of communication are being used in educational and appropriate ways, no harm is being done. On the other hand, professional relationships between teachers and students may be at greater risk for becoming too close.

Principal Michael Griffith feels that these forms of technology need to be explored before it can be decided as to whether or not they are appropriate. For the time being, it seems like we will just have to wait and see. Said Griffith, "We need to figure out what's acceptable."

Latrice Burks, Eric Harris, Briana Johnson and Julia Scharfstein contributed reporting.



WHAT GRIFFITH SAYS ABOUT

TEACHER-STUDENT TEXTING

"Obviously this is fraught with social issues."

TEACHER-STUDENT FACEBOOK RELATIONSHIPS

"In general, I think it would be very questionable for a teacher to befriend a student on Facebook."

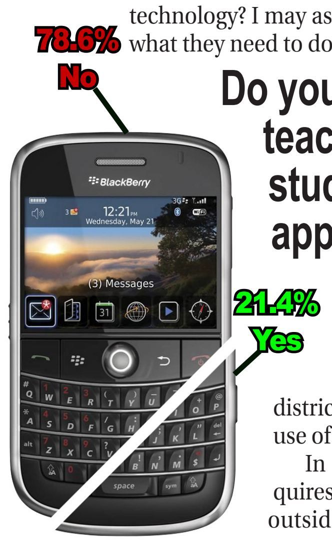
"Personally, I think there's an issue with it from an adult perspective."

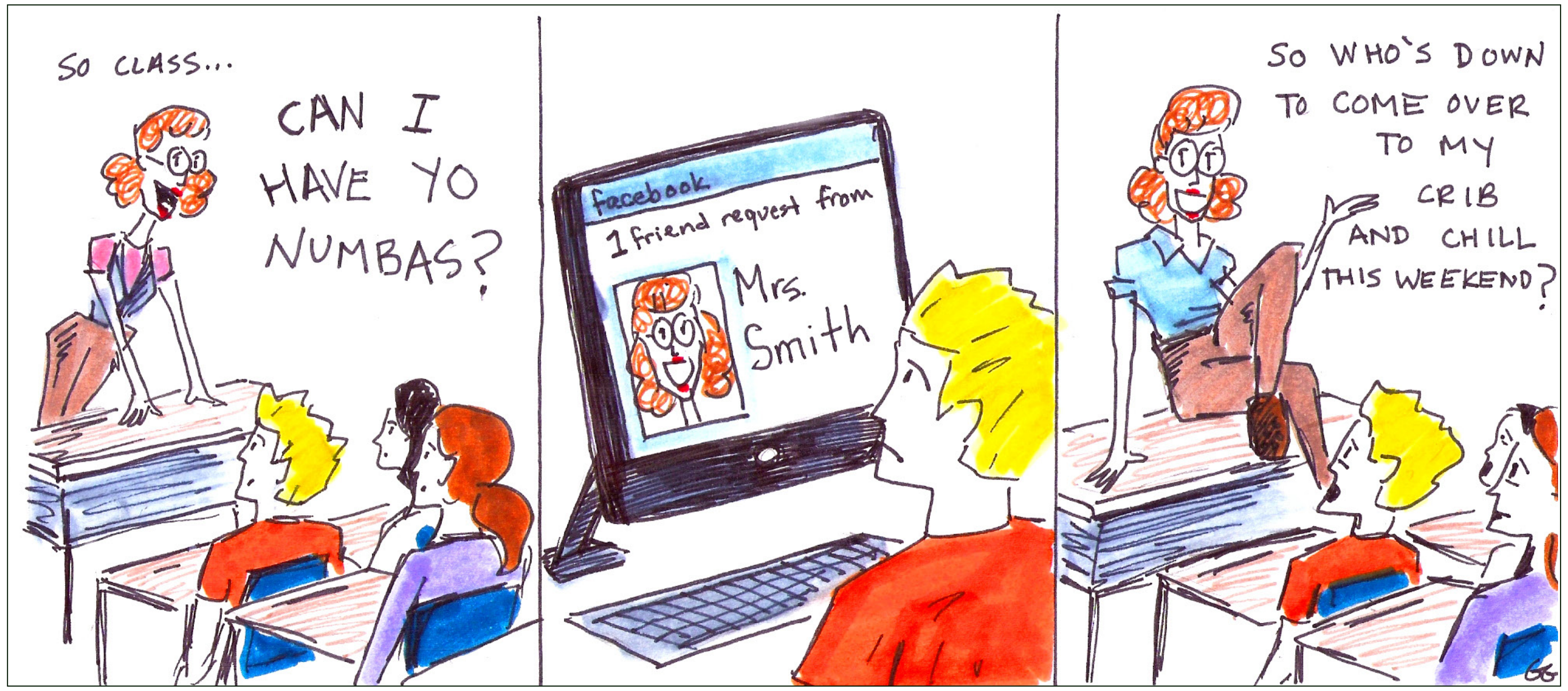
TECHNOLOGY'S PLACE IN THE SCHOOL

"I'm always wary of over reliance on technologies."

"I don't think you can ever replace a high quality, affective, awesome, teacher."

Do you think teachers texting students is appropriate?




SO CLASS...
CAN I HAVE YO NUMBAS?
facebook
1 friend request from
Mrs. Smith
SO WHO'S DOWN TO COME OVER TO MY CRIB AND CHILL THIS WEEKEND?
GG

Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

POST-IT NOTE ENCOURAGEMENT

"Can you transform the way you see yourself, one Post-it note at a time?"Caitlin Boyle, 26, hopes so. Boyle launched Operation Beautiful through her blog, www.operationbeautiful.com, about her healthy lifestyle. She encourages positive body image among all by leaving Post-it notes displaying encouraging messages in public areas. Boyle wishes to diminish negative comments that undermine people's confidence. Followers can send pictures of their Post-it notes contributing to Operation Beautiful to Boyle at her email, operationbeautiful@gmail.com.

ELLEN HOLCOMB

You look fantastic!
Operation beautiful.com

operationbeautiful.com

SILLY BANDZ

Ellen Holcomb • The Shakerite

• Distraction at its finest, Silly Bandz captivate Shaker students' wrists and attention

BY ERICA SEMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Whether you and your friends have the red penguin, tie-dye sunglasses or the complete Justin Bieber pack, Silly Bandz are everywhere.

Silly Bandz are silicone bracelets shaped like various animals, letters, objects, and now, even people. The idea of a shaped rubber band started in Japan in 2002. Robert Croak, of BCP Imports (whose office opens at the curious hour of 9:30 a.m.), had been traveling when he had thought to alter the bands to create toys for kids. No matter how many times Silly Bandz are worn around the wrist or ankle, they always return to their original shape. A typical pack of Silly Bandz can be purchased for about $5. Silly Bandz -- and their imitators -- are sold most everywhere.

The bands are wildly popular and, like other toy crazes, have stretched into classrooms at all levels and sometimes prove distracting. Andy Hassell, a fourth grade teacher at Fernway, confiscated nine Silly Bandz in only one week of school. In 17 years at Fernway, she has also collected toy racecars, Pokémon and Yu-Gi-Oh cards. She's noticed that unlike these other crazes, Silly Bandz are enjoyed by both boys and girls. Hassell has been interrupted in her teaching when students stretch out the bracelets on their desks and while making trades, although these mostly take place during lunch and recess.

Silly Bandz are not a problem at any Shaker schools, according to Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell.

Shaker Heights High School Assistant Principal Sara Joyce heard about Silly Bandz from an article in "Time." When reading the article, she hadn't seen the craze yet, but now sees them everywhere. Joyce has even been spotted sporting a bright orange Silly Band, but she admits she can't discern its shape. When traveling last summer, Joyce had noticed Silly Bandz in Japan.

"Even a Buddha!" she said.

These famous rubber bands aren't all fun—they are also potentially dangerous. Numerous reports have been filed stating that people wearing large numbers of Silly Bandz have had the circulation cut off in their wrists. Evan Steele, a 4-year-old boy from Canandaigua, N.Y., was left with deep cuts on his wrists and arms from the bands. He had been wearing so many that the lower bracelets had been pressed into his skin by the top layers, cutting off the circulation in his hands. There is also, as mentioned on the package, a choking hazard for children under age 3.

"These bands could cause what we call a tourniquet effect that can cause your veins to get congested. The bracelets could cause blood clots to form in some of the veins, giving someone a phlebitis, which is an inflammation and clotting of the vein," Dr. Gregory Simonian of the Heart Vascular Hospital at the Hackensack University Medical Center told FOX News.

On a lighter note, Silly Bandz are now being used in clubs and bars as a flirty, less daunting way to start conversations, replacing bad pick-up lines.

"People always notice them," said James Santos, 32, told the N.Y. Daily News. "They're a great conversation starter."

Ellen Holcomb • The Shakerite

SATURDAYS ARE NOT A TOTAL LOSS

• The football team may struggle to score, let alone win, but marching band always triumphs

BY MARKI GREEN
STAFF REPORTER

Despite how poorly the football team plays, Shaker wins at nearly every football game. The result is not visible on the scoreboard, but a look at the stands reveals when the real competition occurs: halftime.

The 325-member Shaker marching band defeats nearly every opponent.

"At Shaker, the football team is the band's opening act; why else do so many people leave after halftime?" junior Spencer Seballos said.

Marching band co-director Jason Clemens said the band's formidable size is key to its dominant performance.

"We are able to do so many things with the drill and the music, simply because we have the numbers to pull it off," Clemens stated in an e-mail message. "For instance, we can spell 'Shaker' out over 80 yards with letters that are over 30 yards tall. That's just cool."

Senior Will Lopez comes to the football games only to see the marching band. "They are good, unlike the football team, and I don't like to waste my money on a team that barely wins games," he said.

Favoring the band won't help the football team get any better, according to sophomore Blair Green. "The football team is good. They just need direction. They need everybody's support, and that's what I'm there for," Green said.

Marti McDonald, a senior member of the band, said the football team controls its own destiny. "I think that it's their own fault. They have been losing for years now. If they would start winning, then people will start believing in them again."

Senior Caitlin Cheverine pointed out how adult fans add to the imbalance. "I do feel bad for the football team because a lot of people do come out for the band itself. It seems most of the parents in the stands are band parents, not football parents . . . Maybe they'd score a couple more touchdowns in the second half if they had fans to cheer them on. "

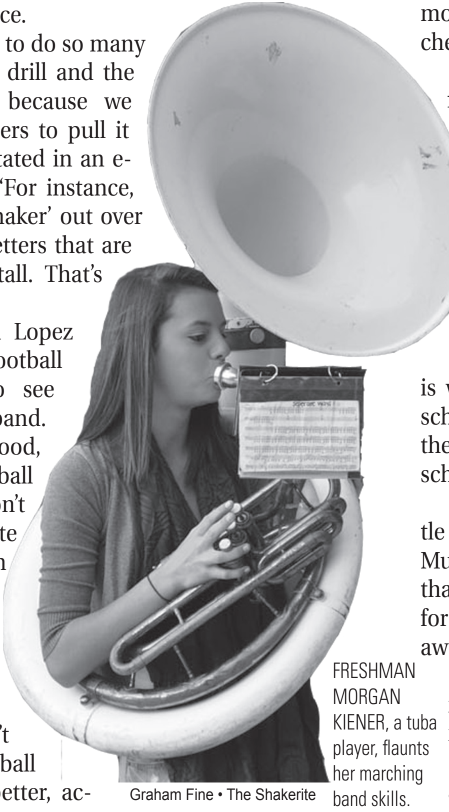
Brenton Sullivan, a sophomore, relies on the band for entertainment at the games. "I love watching the marching band perform. They get me excited, unlike what's occurring on the field. I am glad we have the marching band to keep the stands full at least until halftime.

Although the stands aren't packed for the reason they should be, sophomore band member Jack Nemeth is happy that they're packed at all. "Well it's sad that we don't have a winning football team but I think it's great thing to have a band that is worth coming to the game for and supporting our school. If people who come for the band didn't come to the games they might not be as big of a community at school events," he said.

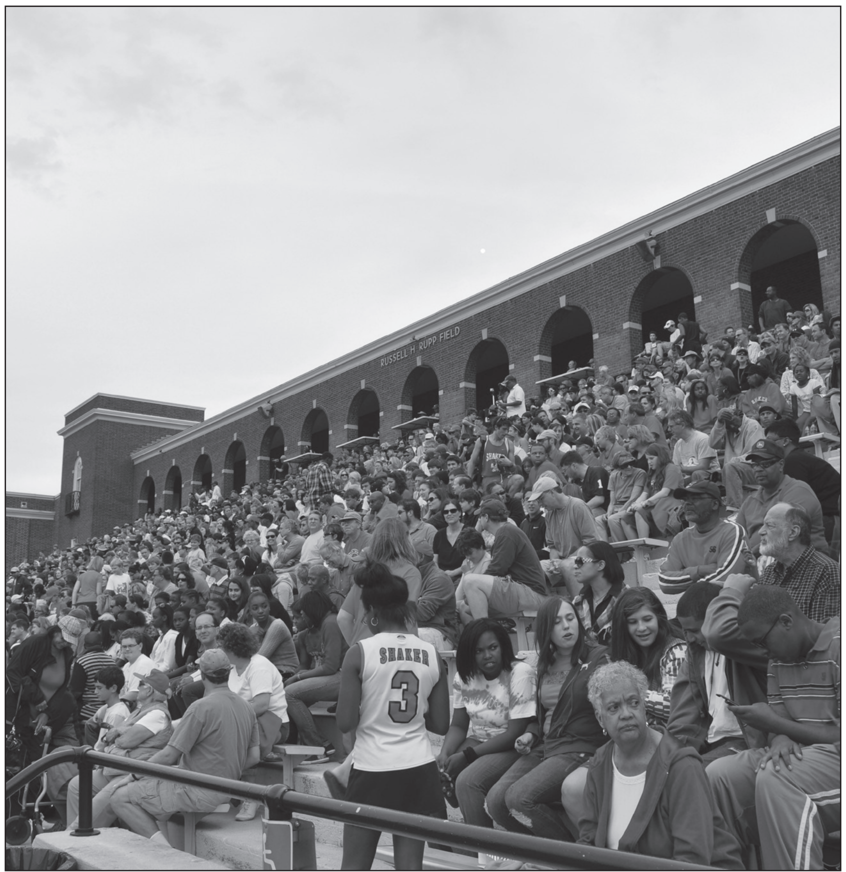
All that adoration can make band members feel a little guilty, according to sophomore band member Amani Musawwir. "It's an awesome feeling when you step on that field and everyone is cheering for you. But I feel bad for the football players because I feel like we are stealing away their time to shine," she said.

Stealing the spotlight is understandable. The marching band and its wall of sound are hard to ignore.

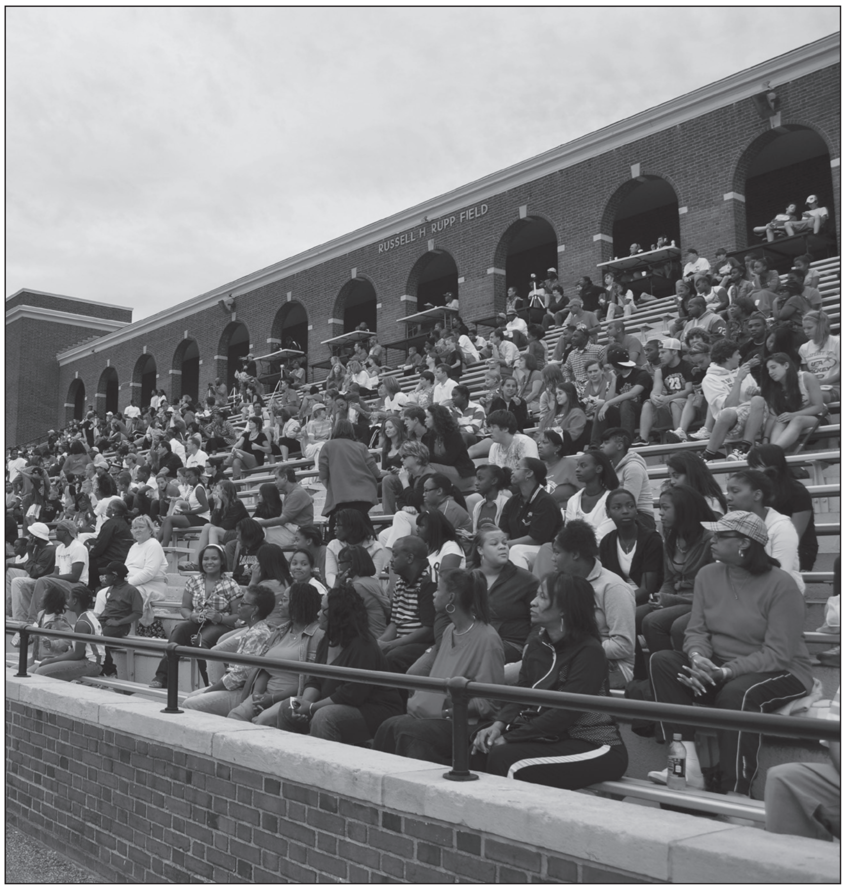
Said Clemens, "When everyone is really working and that sound gets cranking, there is nothing better."


Graham Fine • The Shakerite

FRESHMAN MORGAN KIENER, a tuba player, flaunts her marching band skills.


Graham Fine • The Shakerite

TWO PHOTOS OF the crowd at Russell H. Rupp Stadium for the Sept. 11 football game illustrate the marching band effect. The picture above was taken before halftime, the picture below, after. The bleachers are often noticeably less crowded after the band performs as fans choose to leave rather than watch the game.

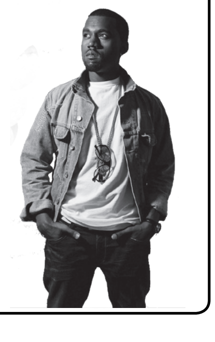

Graham Fine • The Shakerite

IN

Raider Silly Bandz
Shaker band
Teachers texting students
Lady Gaga

OUT

Shaker sunglasses
Shaker football
Professionaly E-mailing Students
Kanye West



Compiled by Ellen Holcomb, Devin Parry and Katie Inglis

Cracking up, cashing in on attempted rape

BY DEVIN PARRY
THE SPOTLIGHT EDITOR

It is number 59 on the iTunes top 100 songs. It has tallied more than 9 million views on YouTube.

It is also the story of a potential rape victim, and millions of people have downloaded it because they think it's funny.

The video, "Bed Intruder," is a clip from a Hunstville, AL news station. Kelly Dodson awoke when an unidentified man climbed in her window and attempted to rape her. While she struggled with the attacker, her brother, Antoine Dodson, heard her screaming from the other room and ran in to help her, causing the man to flee.

In the aftermath of the assault, an impassioned Antoine yelled at the TV camera, "Well, obviously, we have a rapist in Lincoln Park. He's climbing in your windows, he's snatching your people up, tryin' to rape them; so y'all need to hide your kids, hide your wife, and hide your husband 'cause they're raping everybody out there."

Antoine's emotional quote begins the auto-tuned version of "The Bed Intruder Song," which combines the rest of Antoine Dodson's and Kelly Dodson's interviews. Their voices have been edited and set to a beat by The Gregory Brothers, who have auto-tuned other news excerpts in the past.

The result?

"I think it's hilarious. I think the song is funnier than the actual video itself," sophomore Will Naugle said.

Both the video and the song have gone viral, but while people giddily quote Dodson and sing along with the song, have they forgotten why the story was filmed in the first place – the near rape of a woman in her own home?

Antoine Dodson
VICTIM'S BROTHER
amp.radio.com

"I don't think it's that big of a deal," Naugle said. "People aren't laughing at her almost getting raped. They're laughing at how stupid her brother is. I think it's funny."

Sophomore Ford Shelton said the technological embellishment transformed the assault. "I feel like, from an ethical standpoint, if you take away the song and Antoine in general, it would be wrong to laugh at it," he said. "But between the song and the way the video was put out there, it's hard not to laugh at it."

Sondra Miller, vice president of community engagement at the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, offered a different opinion. "First and foremost, rape is never funny. I think we're laughing at it as a defense mechanism because if we're laughing at someone else, we think it couldn't happen to us," Miller said.

The Gregory Brothers is a country/folk band, comprising brothers Andrew, Evan and Michael Gregory, and Evan's wife, Sarah. The band is sharing profits from the song with the Dodson family equally. Although it is unknown how much they have made in profits, the song sold upwards of 10,500 copies on iTunes in the first two days, at $1.29 per download. While Dodson has said the profits are enough to move his family to a better neighborhood, he is also selling "Hide Yo' Kids, Hide Yo' Wife" T-shirts on Facebook and has a website where people can donate to the Dodson family.

But can mockery and money make things right?

Said Miller, "I hope for the family that they're finding healthy ways to cope with the trauma, and I'm not sure making a profit achieves that."

WANT SOME ENTERTAINMENT WITH THAT BIG LIFE LESSON?

• Popular TV shows shove social issues down the throats of their obsessive audiences

BY LIZ JACOB
STAFF REPORTER

From "General Hospital" and "Days of our Lives" to "The Secret Life of the American Teenager" and "Pretty Little Liars," entertaining soap operas have evolved into daily doses of social consciousness.

"After watching a show like 'Pretty Little Liars,' I want to stay away from drama and keep my friends close," sophomore Kendal Anderson said.

"Every show has some type of political message, some kind of social undertone as opposed to good, mind-numbing fun" social studies teacher Paul Kelly said. Kelly also mentioned that although he didn't personally watch soap operas during his time in high school, his sisters did, and he picked up on the humor and content from them.

According to Kelly, TV has stopped being strictly about entertainment and humor and has turned into a way to educate and spread news. Kelly wonders how kids can enjoy watching these shows.

Sophomore Bess Brown explained the social motivations for watching TV. "It's what all my friends are watching; I want to be up to date and current," she said.

http://www.blogcdn.com

Popular shows such as "The Secret Life of the American Teenager," "Pretty Little Liars" and "Glee" all include lessons in their episodes, specifically those relating to teenagers and their life choices. These programs have addressed teen pregnancy and sex, types and healthiness of relationships, sexual orientation, drug abuse and behavior.

"Pretty Little Liars," a popular teenage drama, is a suspenseful series in which a teenage girl is murdered and her friends are stalked by a mysterious "A" character who spills their secrets to the world.

A typical episode of the "Secret Life of the American Teenager" covers issues ranging from choices about teen sex, teen marriage, family issues, friend drama and teenage parenthood.

By comparison, the 1980s TV show "The Dukes of Hazard" featured country humor, car chases, and all-out mischief. "Just the good ole' boys, wouldn't change if they could. Fightin' the system like a true-modern day Robin Hood," the Dukes of Hazard theme song boasted.

On the other hand, the "Pretty Little Liars" theme song states, "If I show you then I know you. Won't tell what I said. Cause two can keep a secret if one of them is dead."

Students mentioned that although "The Secret Life" was entertaining the first few episodes, the amount of drama that's being packed into the show just isn't worth it anymore.

"I don't watch soap operas now. They are ridiculous, badly acted, and the plots don't make any sense," English teacher Nicole Yost said. Yost watched General Hospital in the 80s, and she admits that "Gossip Girl" is her guilty pleasure.

This shift in TV content is inducing a type of message fatigue on teenagers. People in general are getting worn out by the overwhelming amount of preachy TV. In the long run, can this type of TV last?

"All the shows are representing life . . . it's lame and not funny anymore," social studies teacher Dann Parker said.

http://bumpshack.com

GO SEE IT

WILL FERRELL MARK WAHLBERG
THE OTHER GUYS
THIS SUMMER
http://fantasticfest.com

BEAT BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLUES WITH 'THE OTHER GUYS'

Seamus Leahy

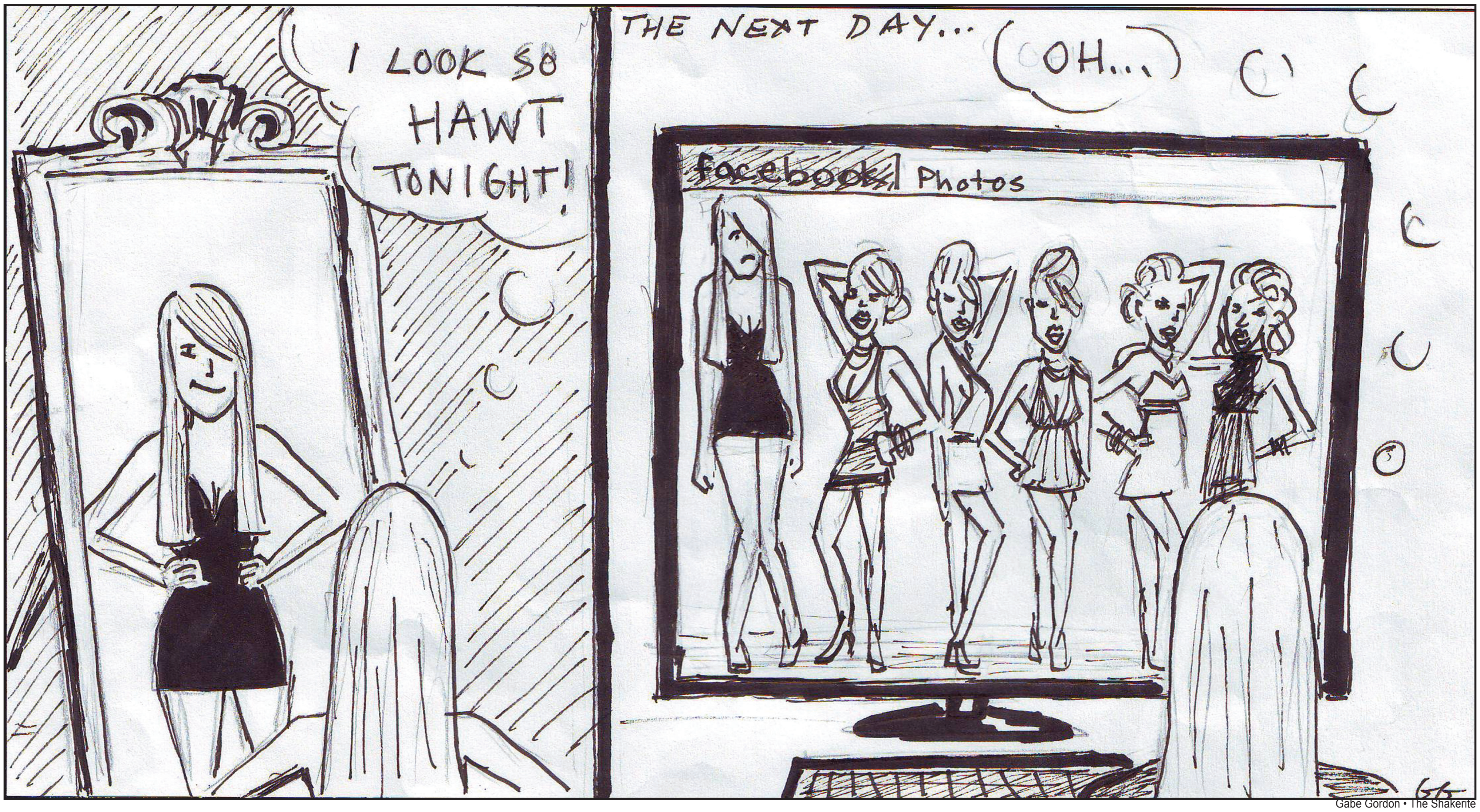
As a great source of back-to-school escapism, "The Other Guys" delivers clever and irrational humor enjoyable by all. "The Other Guys" shows the viewer the desk-job side of law enforcement.

Mark Wahlberg and Will Ferrell try to fill the shoes of two super cops (Dwayne Johnson and Samuel L. Jackson) in order to solve a gripping corporate scandal. They are quick to find out that being a cop is nothing like the movies— they have to deal with each other, their peers and the elusive and insidious villains.

Wahlberg does a surprisingly good job in his first comedy role as Terry Hoitz, a cop who missed his chance at becoming the next James Bond; and while he goes to great lengths to convince others of his masculinity, he's mostly trying to convince himself. Unfortunately, Ferrell—comedic genius that he is—starts the movie off as the quiet and wimpy Allen Gamble, but then sustains a complete-character-change and is never the same. However, despite annoying problems such as character continuity, the film certainly has its LOL moments; and it makes several humorous jabs at action movie clichés.

……

Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Will Ferrell, Eva Mendes, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Michael Keaton, Samuel L. Jackson
Rated: PG - 13
Genre: Action, Adventure and Comedy
Run Time: 1 hour, 47 minutes


I LOOK SO HAWT TONIGHT!
THE NEXT DAY...
OH...
facebook Photos

Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

INSECURITY: NOW AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK

• Photos uploaded to social network sites give adolescent girls additional reasons to doubt themselves and their self-image

BY KATIE INGLIS
THE SPOTLIGHT EDITOR

Approximately 798 girls in Shaker Heights High School are wondering if you're staring at the flaws that they're dying to change.

According to a Dove Campaign for Real Beauty study, 92 percent of teen girls would like to change something about the way they look, with body weight ranking the highest.

Consider that stat along with our generation's online habits, and it's not unreasonable to wonder whether Facebook – where countless photos are posted every day -- is fueling girls' negative self-images.

Although Facebook pictures can be an ultimate challenge with insecurities, that's certainly not where it starts. Any girl needs other opinions to be confident.

Junior Caroline Hatch is one of many that looks to others for advice on appearance. "I normally ask one person 'cause sometimes you'll go out and girls will be wearing skirts and heels, and sometimes jeans and a T-shirt. Boys don't have that problem, they can just always wear pants and a shirt and it won't matter."

When going out, a big part of insecurities is comparing yourself to others. Questions like "Do I look as pretty as she does?" or "Does that skirt look better on her?" appear.

Junior Michaela Matthews concurs. "I think every girl does that in a way. You want to be able to be totally confident in how you look but I think for everyone, there's always that part that questions."

In the age of social media, anxiety about looking good seems to have increased significantly. Before Facebook, if you had a bad hair night, or you thought your best friend looked better than you, your discomfort was over when the night was over. Someone may have documented the night on a camera, but they weren't going to post the pictures on a social network for the whole world to see.

Now, Facebook claims the average user has more than 130 friends, and users upload more than 30 billion photos to the site each year.

So, if you don't like your look, chances are hundreds, if not thousands, of people probably don't either, and they aren't afraid to say it.

And if you think you're not easy to identify in that horrible picture from the dance, think again. You can now be tagged, meaning everyone that views that embarrassing picture will know it's you. In other words, every one that looks at that picture can find your name below the picture, and even click on it to be taken back to your personal profile. Suddenly, that god awful photo is the reason that total strangers know who you are.

Of course, you can untag these awful images, but how much time can you spare to save humiliation?

"Well, generally, we have a good laugh at pictures where we look horrible and/or actually try to make faces involving multiple chins, but I have to admit there were times when I've untagged myself because it was just plain tragic," senior Georgia Haddad said.

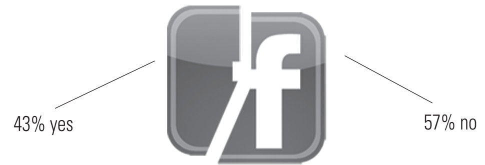
As Facebook users are untagging pictures because of insecurities, they are now also using programs to change pictures. Photoshop and other programs are often used to alter a photo before someone displays it on her Facebook profile.

Does the ability to compare yourself to friends or alter your appearance in Photoshop make it easier to doubt yourself? According to a study by CTV Edmonton, people with insecurities manage their image by hiding physical features or personality traits they don't like, and putting forward only what they see as the best of themselves.

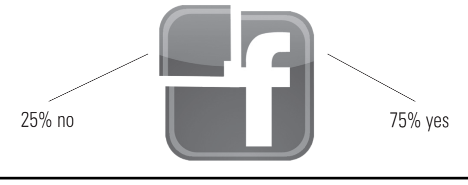
As technology advances with each generation, the ability to tag, untag, and alter every aspect of our pictures makes insecurity and doubt that much more probable.

So as the models only get thinner, and advertising for makeup to cover our flaws only increases, our 798 girls, and whichever boys fall into the trap, become more obsessed with their imperfections.

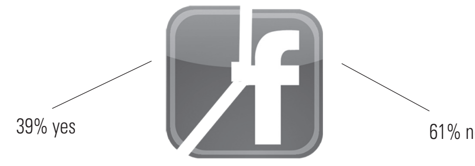
Have you ever edited a picture before setting it as your profile picture?



Have you ever "untagged" yourself from a Facebook picture either because you felt like the picture was unflattering or you didn't look as good as your friends?



Has anyone ever left a negative comment about you on any of your Facebook pictures?



Compiled by Katie Inglis, Ellen Holcomb and Devin Parry

A scientific poll of 110 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/- 9.5 percent

SOCCER BRAWL RESULTS IN SUSPENSION

• Senior David Anderson faces discipline in defense of fellow teammate

BY KYRA HALL
RAIDERZONE EDITOR

No soccer player wants a red card, but in the heat of competition, senior David Anderson decided to risk it.

During the soccer game against Normandy Aug. 30, Anderson was red carded in an effort to defend sophomore Leo Katz.

"The refs were inconsistent, which caused them to lose complete control of the game. It showed because people on the field got away with almost everything," Anderson said.

According to Anderson, at one point the game started to get out of control.

"The Normandy captain was on a breakaway, and I slide tackled him. We collided and he straddled me. I pushed him off then attempted to walk away when he jumped on my back and started choking me. I tried to get the ref's attention because it got to the point where I couldn't breathe, so I fought back. Then David came over to help defend me by kicking the kid while he was on the ground," Katz said.

ANDERSON

KATZ

However, head coach Nader Soliman suggested that it was not Anderson's place to get involved,

"He should have gone straight to the referees. Retaliation is not the way to fix anything, but David has a hot head and reacted while he needed to relax and play his game."

Katz thinks Anderson was justified.

"He came over to defend a teammate," Katz said.

"I certainly did not set a good example," Anderson said. "I feel that I had the right intentions in defending Leo, but I just did it in the worst way possible."

In soccer, a yellow card is equivalent to a warning. When a player receives two yellow cards during one game, it turns into what soccer players call a rellow card. This means the player is out for the remainder of the game.

When a player acts out severely enough without getting warned, they receive a red card which results in suspension for the next two games.

"Directly after the game, I thought, 'Why did I do that?' That was idiotic. I should have just separated them, but clearly I didn't think before it happened. It just happened," Anderson said.

After the game ended in a 1-1 tie, Soliman lectured the team about his expectations.

"They have to realize that their actions reflect the whole community," said Soliman.

"I do not believe in aggression. You shut down the other team by playing your game."

Anderson said that aggression goes too far when the intent of the players changes.

Katz evidently took Soliman's lecture seriously because he sent his coaches an e-mail shortly after the game, apologizing for his immaturity and sinking down to the other team's level.

Katz said, "Fighting in sports isn't worth it. There's always going to be a thin line between self-defense and bad sportsmanship."

> "Fighting in sports isn't worth it. There's always going to be a thin line between self-defense and bad sportsmanship."
> Leo Katz
> sophomore defender

GRIFFITH'S RESPONSE

Shortly after the soccer incident during the game against Normandy, Athletic Director Don Readance and Principal Michael Griffith sent out a letter to all students and coaches involved in fall sports.

The letter stresses the importance of setting good examples of sportsmanship both on and off of the field. A message sent within the letter from the Ohio High School Athletic Association states, "Sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility!" The letter also communicates the point that doing one's best is as important as winning.

Compiled by Kyra Hall

SHAKER GOALIES KICK BUTT!

Jessica Komp• The Gristmill

Men's Varsity Soccer goalie, senior Josh Tallman is caught in the act during a home game against Heights Sept. 13, resulting in a 4-1 win.

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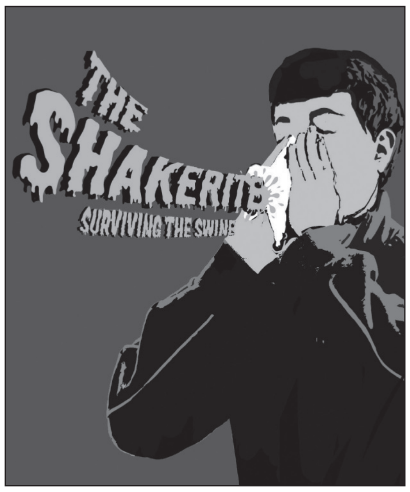

Have something to read when you get the flu!

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Shaker Heights High School, 15911
Aldersyde Dr. Shaker Hts, OH. 44120

FIELD HOCKEY SHUTS 'EM OUT

• En route to 6 victories and undefeated league mark, Mercer, defense tally 5 shutouts

BY FRANCIS GOINS
RAIDERZONE EDITOR

With the fall season in full swing, Raider field hockey leads the Shaker campaign.

After four weeks of competition, field hockey is 6-2 despite bouts of illness and injuries that would give any coach nightmares. Losses came to Bexley (Columbus) and Ottawa Hills (Toledo). The Raiders were undefeated in the LEL at press time, so an league championship and state title contention seem likely.

The Raider defense and goalie Cece Mercer have collaborated to shut out opponents in all but one of the team's wins. Mercer said physical troubles haven't hurt the team.

"With the chemistry we have, I'm not surprised we're doing well," said Mercer. "Even though we've had a couple of injuries, we have players that will step up and put in the extra effort for the win."

This year's performance is a significant improvement over last year's 9-8 finish. A major test looms Oct. 7, when Shaker travels to rival Hathaway Brown to challenge the talented Blazers. Game time is 4:30 p.m.

Ife Claytor • The Shakerite

SOPHOMORE TIA MORRISON, attack, makes pass during game. The field hockey team is undefeated in the LEL and is a state hopeful.

Fall sports at a glance	Record	Season highs	Season lows	Outlook for the rest of the season
Men's Soccer	6-1-1	Shut out Gilmour 2-0 @ Gilmour	Blanked by Strongsville, 4-0	Looks like they'll be defending their LEL title
Women's Soccer	7-0-2	Defeated bitter rival Mentor, 3-1.	Well, they're undefeated, so . . .	Will easily make playoffs; favored to win states
Football	1-3-0	Shook off prior losses to defeat Warrensville, 21-6.	Trounced by Solon in opener, 35-0	Plenty of season left; win against Warrensville may instill hope, confidence
Women's X-country	Information not available	Placed first at Berkshire Invitational	Those shins splints hurt	Could win back-to-back state championships; only time will tell.
Men's X-country	Information not available	Placed second at Berkshire race	Finished 21 out of 27 teams at Gallion Invitaional	Will likely finish in the middle of the LEL pack
Volleyball	0-4-0	Information not available	Information not available	Aways to go before they can be considered a threat.
Women's Tennis	5-8-0	Served Beachwood with 4-1 loss	Dropped tough match to Beaumont, 3-2	After a hard fought season so far, could rally for strong LEL finish
Men's Golf	Information not available	Placed fourth overall in LEL championships	Information not available	It's hard to say, really . . .
Women's Golf	9-9-0	Information not available	Information not available	Record could be good for mid-level LEL finish

FIELD HOCKEY FEELS THE PAIN OF ILLNESS AND INJURY

Injuries and sickness have stalked the varsity field hockey team since the first week of preseason, starting with senior Julia Celeste's sprained wrist. Senior Cece Mercer acquired a staph infection and junior Caroline Hatch discovered her ongoing sickness was mono. Celeste later broke her nose during practice and needed emergency surgery. Senior Emily Flynn tore her right ACL, meniscus and part of her MCL, three of four major knee ligaments, shortly after recovering from a torn ACL on her left leg. Flynn's recovery time will be six to 12 months, which will affect her lacrosse season.

MARISSA MILLER

NO FIELD, TRACK OR LIGHTS FROM CLEMENTS

• 49ers cornerback, an SHHS grad, never made an offer

BY IAN ROUND
RAIDERZONE EDITOR

Bummer. It would have been pretty cool.

According to Athletics Director Don Readance, Nate Clements ('97) never offered to fund a turf football field, new track or stadium lights at the high school.

Rumors have circulated for nearly two years that Clements, who is in his tenth year as an NFL cornerback (his fourth with the San Francisco 49ers), offered to pay for a turf stadium, track, and lights, in exchange for naming rights to the field, but that his offer was turned down because the school wanted the field to remain named after Russell H. Rupp. The field was dedicated to Rupp in 1964 after his 19 years as principal.

PE teacher Kenneth Kangas believes that Rupp was an NFL referee.

Christine Auginas, assistant to the superintendent and executive director of the Shaker Schools Foundation, set the record straight.

"That is a rumor that has no basis in fact . . . I cannot make a guess as to how the rumor started," she said.

One version of the rumor specified that Clements offered $3.5 million to the school, $3 million of which would go to education and the other $500,000 would purchase the field, track, and lights. However, turf fields range in cost from $700,000-$900,000.

A field committee met from 2007-2009 "to assess the feasibility of raising funds for an artificial field."Due to Clements' fame, his name was mentioned as a possible donor. However, "it never got beyond a certain stage," Readance said.

The group was able to secure about one-third of the necessary funds, but then the economy fell and they weren't able to acquire any more.

"He was contacted by this group, but there was never, never – and I would have heard – any [monetary offer]," Readance said.

Clements was mentioned again as a possible donor, but "nothing has materialized to this point."

Richard and Annie Hubbard chaired the committee. "We certainly would have known if anything like that rumor had any elements of truth to it," Richard said. They said they have no idea as where the Clements story originated.

Readance still wants the football field to be replaced, but sees no need for lights.

"First things first, I'd like to get a new field . . . I can deal with playing on Saturday," he said. "Lights have never been in any equation."

The varsity football field is littered with patches of dirt and sand that worsen footing.

The team often practices in the baseball field's outfield, which suffers wear and tear as well.

If Clements – or anyone – were interested in helping, Shaker would entertain the idea.

"If there were to be something offered, we would definitely listen," Readance said.

"As we look at all our facilities, I'm going to do my best to improve what we have."

Kyra Hall • The Shakerite

THE ARTIFICIAL TURF field at Ottawa HIlls High School in Toledo is suitable for many outdoor sports including field hockey, football, lacrosse and soccer. Turf fields, although much warmer than grass when the weather is hot, are much more durable and cost-effective. A turf field could make the district's grass fields more accessible to residents.

TURF FIELD PROS AND CONS

- Turf fields are much more durable than grass fields. They can be used all the time and can withstand rainfall that often renders grass fields unplayable. The flat surface of a turf field helps reduce injuries. Without divots, the risk of rolled ankles and injured knees is reduced. Despite the high cost of a turf field, upkeep costs much less."Turf would accommodate us greatly. Since our fields are used for PE classes throughout the year, they don't get a whole lot of rest. Turf would alleviate the wear and tear on our fields," AD Don Readance said.
- Turf fields can be more than 20 degrees hotter than air, making them unplayable when temperatures approach 90 degrees.

Turf fields pose a risk of lead, zinc or other chemical exposure. Once a turf field is installed, it cannot easily be replaced with grass. Chemicals from the turf kill all living organisms in the soil.

point
counterpoint

Compiled by Ian Round

Ultimately, not enough field for hockey and Frisbee

Shala Miller • The Gristmill

DIRT FLIES AS freshman Anna O'Connell swings her field hockey stick. The field is littered with patches of dirt which lower play quality.

BY LIAM MCDERMOTT
STAFF REPORTER

A lack of field space continues to cause problems for Shaker sports teams, including women's field hockey.

Residents and other sports clubs may not use any fields without a permit.

According to Athletics Director Don Readance, the district has hired a security guard to monitor the field on the weekends.

"Basically anyone who wishes to use our school's fields must go through administration," Readance said.

Coaches and players are frustrated with trespassers playing on and damaging their fields.

"Our fields are in terrible condition. Our soccer field is covered with sand and has bumps everywhere," said sophomore Leo Katz.

"It's a hazardous situation for athletes to play on and makes it very hard for them to play at their best ability when they're focused on not breaking an ankle."

Members of the field hockey team agree. "The field hockey field sucks, the upkeep is poor and it's a safety hazard," said sophomore Tia Morrison.

Those affected see it differently. Ultimate Frisbee players were ordered by police to leave Woodbury because they lacked a permit.

Junior Nate Balester wonders where they can play if they can't use the fields.

"Most of our yards are too small, and you can't play very many games in the street. We should have the right to use at least some if not all fields in Shaker, as long as we don't mistreat them," Balester said.

He believes that one practice per week is reasonable compared to the field hockey team's five practices.

"A few of the older guys there --it's not just kids, many young adults in the community play with us -- asked for the new rule in writing, but the guard went and got the police," Balester said.